THE MINISTER FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Desirability of Improving the working of Government Hospitals in Delhi

1139. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the continuous deteriorating conditions, non-availability of medicines, lack of facilities in the Central Government hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the desirability of examining in depth the functioning and working conditions in the city's Government hospitals by an expert committee; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to consider the same, if so, how soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) A number of measures have been taken to upgrade the facilities in the Central Government hospitalish by providing new equipments for diagnostics and therapeutics, supplying essential and life-saving drugs and improving patient conveniences.

(b) and (c) The Working of the Central Government hospitals was reviewed racently by the Standing Parliamentary Committee who gave a number of recommendations on which action have been initiated. Further, there are already committees set up by the Ministry of Health for looking into specialised problems of the individual hospitals and their requirements and functioning is also reviewed periodically and concrete action instituted where called for.

The functioning of the hospitals under the Govt, of NCT of Delhi is periodically reviewed by that Govt, and appropriate measures are undertaken wherever necessary.

Decision of International Airport Division to privatise the ground handling at Delhi

1140. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Airports Divisions of Airports Authority of India has decided to privatise the ground handling at Delhi and Bombay;

(b) if so, the basic objectives behind this decision; and

(c) what efforts has so far been made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Negotiations between OECF and Indian Financial Institutions

1141. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Overseas Economic Corporation Fund (OECF) of Japan is negotiating with Indian FIS to introduce a two step lending programme to private companies;

(b) whether the proposal requires sovereign guarantee from the Central Government and that the matter was awaiting clearance from the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and the Finance Ministry; and

(c) if so, since when the matter is pending and when it will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There are two on going projects under which Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan is providing two step lending to